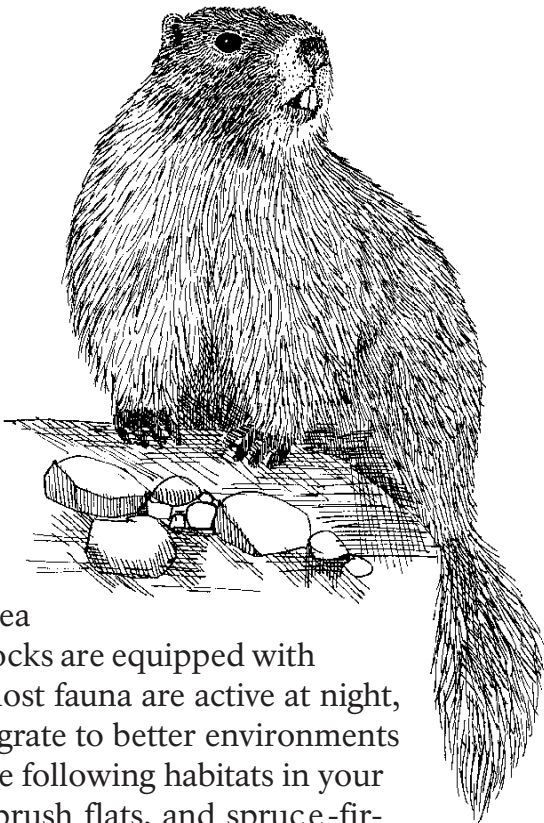




Wildlife Checklist



Yellow-bellied Marmot

Wildlife at City of Rocks

At first glance, City of Rocks, would appear to be a tough place for wildlife to survive. Diverse habitats at various elevations lead to an area bursting with wildlife. It goes without saying that animals at City of Rocks are equipped with special adaptations to survive extreme conditions. During summer, most fauna are active at night, thereby escaping the often hot, dry days. Winter forces wildlife to migrate to better environments or to hibernate. To see as many different types as possible, include the following habitats in your search: pinyon-juniper- mahogany forest, aspen-riparian area, sagebrush flats, and spruce-fir- pine forest above 7,000 feet.

Rare and unusal sightings by visitors are important to reserve resource managers. Report any uncommon wildlife sightings at the visitor center or write to: City of Rocks National Reserve, P.O. Box 169, Almo, ID 83312, (208) 824-5519.

Wildlife Encounters

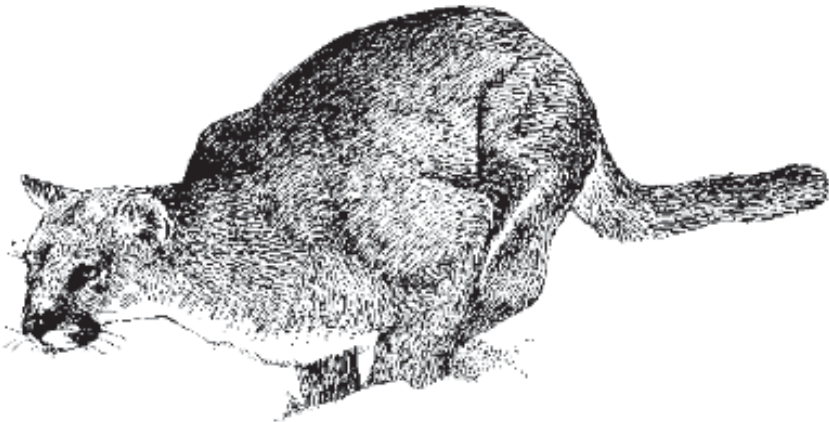
During your visit, you will most likely encounter wildlife in their native habitat. The most common wildlife experienced by visitors include: Mule Deer, Mountain Cottontail, Blacktail Jackrabbbit, Whitetail Jackrabbbit, Least Chipmunk and Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel.

Species Highlight:

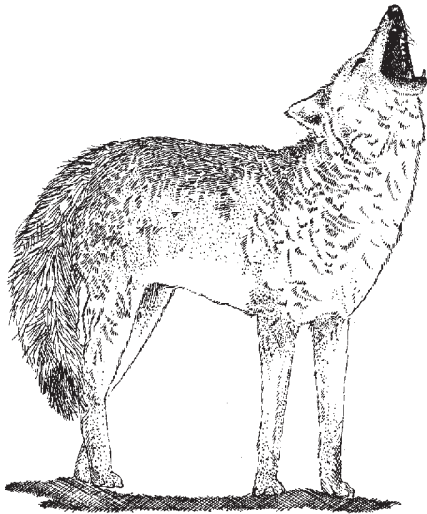
Mountain Lion *Felis concolor*

With sightings documented from Canada to Argentina, the Mountain Lion (also known as Puma, Cougar, and Panther) is the most widely distributed feline in North America. Although as many as three individual lions include City of Rocks in their home range, the chance of actually seeing one is unlikely, but evidence of their existence is readily available. Tracks and scat are the most common clues to lion activity. Tracks are round with 4 distinct toe pads. No claw marks should be evident, as claws are retracted while walking. The size of the foreprint can range from 3-4" and the hindprint should be slightly smaller. Scat can range in shape and size from masses to irregular cylinders to pellets, and frequently contains traces of hair and bone scraps. Sometimes covered by earth, scat is often left partially exposed as a form of territorial scent marking.

Strong, silent, solitary and territorial all accurately describe this elusive cat. Hunting by day or night, a male



can cover up to 25 miles in one night searching for prey. Preferably feeding on large mammals, such as mule deer, lions also feed on coyotes, porcupines, mice, marmots, hares, raccoons, birds and even grasshoppers. Isolated incidents of mountain lions attacking humans have been documented in areas outside of City of Rocks (one documented attack in Idaho). Even when lions are encountered, they rarely pose a threat. In fact, most prefer to avoid human contact. While hiking in lion country, always be aware of your surroundings and hike with a companion. In the event you come in contact with a lion don't run but instead make yourself appear larger and more aggressive. Make eye contact, raise your arms and wave them slowly above your head while speaking in a slow, loud, firm voice. Fight back if attacked. When lions do attack they target the head or neck, so try to remain standing and face the attacking animal. Use rocks, sticks, jackets, camping gear or anything else available to fend off the attack. Lions are often easily discouraged by aggressive behavior.



Coyote

Reptiles and Amphibians

Skinks and Lizards

- ___ Longnose Leopard Lizard
- ___ Common Sagbrush Lizard
- ___ Pygmy Short-horned Lizard
- ___ Desert Horned Lizard
- ___ Western Fence Lizard
- ___ Tiger Whiptail
- ___ Western Skink

Snakes

- ___ Terrestrial Garter Snake
- ___ Gopher Snake
- ___ Western Rattlesnake
- ___ Striped Whipsnake
- ___ Rubber Boa
- ___ Eastern Yellow-bellied Racer

Frogs and Toads

- ___ Boreal Chorus Frog

Mammals

Bats

- ___ Big Brown Bat
- ___ Hoary Bat
- ___ Fringed Myotis
- ___ Little Brown Myotis
- ___ Long-eared Myotis
- ___ Small-footed Myotis
- ___ Silver-haired Bat
- ___ Spotted Bat
- ___ Townsend’s Big-eared Bat
- ___ Western Pipistrelle

Rabbits and Hares

- ___ Mountain Cottontail
- ___ Pygmy Rabbit
- ___ Whitetail Jackrabbit
- ___ Blacktail Jackrabbit

Squirrels and Chipmunks

- ___ Belding’s Ground Squirrel
- ___ Cliff Chipmunk
- ___ Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
- ___ Least Chipmunk
- ___ Richardson Ground Squirrel
- ___ Townsend Ground Squirrel

Mice, Rats, Voles, Shrews and Gophers

- ___ Canyon Mouse
- ___ Deer Mouse
- ___ Western Jumping Mouse
- ___ Western Harvest Mouse
- ___ Great Basin Pocket Mouse
- ___ Northern Grasshopper Mouse
- ___ Bushy-tailed Woodrat
- ___ Desert Woodrat
- ___ Ord Kangaroo Rat
- ___ Long-tailed Vole
- ___ Mountain Vole
- ___ Sagebrush Vole
- ___ Vagrant Shrew
- ___ Water Shrew
- ___ Merriam Shrew
- ___ Northern Pocket Gopher

Large Rodents and Armored Mammals

- ___ Beaver
- ___ Muskrat
- ___ Raccoon
- ___ Yellow-bellied Marmot
- ___ Porcupine

Weasels, Skunks, and Their Kin

- ___ Badger
- ___ Long-tailed Weasel
- ___ Short-tailed Weasel
- ___ Spotted Skunk
- ___ Striped Skunk
- ___ Mink

Cats, Foxes and Coyotes

- ___ Bobcat
- ___ Mountain Lion
- ___ Coyote
- ___ Red Fox

Hoofed Mammals

- ___ Elk *
- ___ Mule Deer
- ___ Pronghorn*
- ___ Bighorn Sheep*

*Species documented near reserve boundaries.

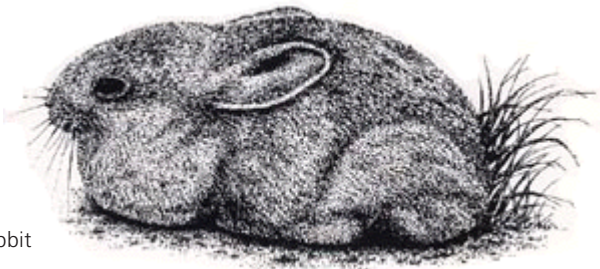
Species Highlight:

Pygmy Rabbit

Brachylagus idahoensis

This Federally Endangered species, with an average weight of less than 12 ounces, is the smallest rabbit in North America. The pygmy rabbit inhabits sagebrush flats common to City of Rocks. Many rabbits use burrows left behind from other animals or live outside of burrows. The pygmy is the only rabbit that is responsible for digging its own burrow system. Grazing on many grasses in spring and summer constitutes 40% of its diet. The rest is made up of sagebrush leaves. In winter, sagebrush is practically all it eats.

This rabbit’s population has been on the decline for some time now. A captive-breeding program is active in several states, including Idaho, in hopes of increasing populations and reintroducing them into the wild. Loss of habitat (due to agricultural conversion) has been the major factor affecting the population. City of Rocks National Reserve provides important habitat for sustaining this species. Please report any Pygmy Rabbit sightings at the visitor center.



Pygmy Rabbit